



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF CHICAGO.

We print the following prospectus of this prosperous society, which was organized in 1873.

PROSPECTUS FOR THE SEASON OF 1880-1881.

The Philosophical Society of Chicago enters upon the eighth year of its work, and offers to the public its programme for the coming season. It invites the coöperation of all the thoughtful people of our city who are interested in the dissemination of truth in the departments of speculative philosophy, social science, moral science, and of natural science and history in their philosophical aspects.

The Society has no creed but that put forth in the preamble to its constitution—that Truth is One, and is of infinite value to mankind; and that ignorance, prejudice, and superstition have fearful blinding effects upon the human mind. Upon this basis of common agreement the Society seeks to bring together earnest, thinking men and women to listen to, and to share in, discussions of important topics; to develop clear views, wise thoughts, and just practice; to foster a love of philosophy, and a taste for the discussion of principles.

A society with such purposes must necessarily include persons holding a great variety of views. It has enrolled in its ranks at the same time materialists and idealists in philosophy; orthodox, heterodox, catholics, and atheists in religion; and scientists of opposing theoretical views. No one should impute to the Society any opinion or set of opinions because of doctrines put forth in its lectures, or by its members individually, or because of questions suggested for discussion. It is our doctrine that the surest way to destroy error and to make truth illustrious is to bring them both alike into the light of reason and the fire of discussion. Nowhere can a lecturer find a freer platform, nor greater surety of various, discriminating, and candid criticism.

The principal exercises are lectures, every Saturday evening from the middle of October in each year to the end of the ensuing April. At the close of each lecture, a discussion of it is opened by one or more of the members of the Society previously appointed by the president; these are followed by such other members as see fit to join in the discussion; but no member is allowed more than five minutes in which to discuss the lecture, except the appointees of the chair, who are allowed ten minutes; the lecturer himself closes the discussion. In these discussions, adversary and conflicting views are freely and frankly presented.

An Executive Committee of five persons has charge of the exercises, and is responsible for the lectures which are delivered before the Society. Only such persons are invited to lecture by the Committee as are believed competent to treat topics with philosophical candor, learning, and completeness. We avoid "popular" lectures, and, so far as possible, lectures "which, dealing wholly with details, manifest no perception of the bearings of these details on wider truths." We aim to keep from our platform hot-headed enthusiasts, people of one idea, and visionary schemers. We do not ask nor care what views our lecturers hold on controverted questions; but we expect them to treat adversary views with judicial calmness, and "to be slow to assume that error is more likely to be on the other side than on their own."

The following list of subjects, carefully prepared by the Executive Committee, and from which lecturers in the coming course have been invited to choose their themes,

gives a fair idea of the special field of our work ; but our lecturers are not limited to this list, as will be seen in the programme below :

NATURAL SCIENCE.—1. Effect of the Destruction of American Forests. 2. The Germ Theory of Disease. 3. Relation of Brain Nutrition, through Circulation of the Blood, to Mental Traits. 4. The Relation of Sun-Spots to Meteorology. 5. Transition and Transmutation of Species. 6. Relation of Cerebral Condition to Mental Delusions. 7. Specialization of Function in the Brain. 8. The Glacial Theory in its bearing on the Theory of Early Incandescence and Gradual Refrigeration. 9. Lower Life and its Lessons. 10. Light, Heat, and Electricity ; are they Identical ? 11. Elements ; are they Many or One ? 12. Astronomical Research ; its Results and Probable Limitations. 13. Philological Researches concerning the Origin of Society. 14. The Present Status of the Atomic Theory. 15. Fallacies of Physics.

SPECULATIVE PHILOSOPHY.—1-9. The Philosophies of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Bacon, Hume, Hamilton, Descartes, Leibnitz, Kant. (Lectures presenting synoptically, critically, and clearly the doctrines of any of the philosophers are suited to our course.) 10. Theories of the Absolute. 11. The Antinomies of Municipal Law. 12. Idealism. 13. The Doctrine of Immortality. 14. Metaphysics in Early and Mediæval Christian Theology. 15. The Genesis of Religious Faith. 16. The Value of Faith. 17. Memory ; its Nature and Education.

MORAL PHILOSOPHY.—1. Can Moral Science rest on Intuitions and Experience without Religion ? 2. The Relation of Wealth and Poverty to Morals. 3. The Essential Characteristics of Right-doing and Wrong-doing. 4. Relation of Art to Morals. 5. Psychology as the Basis of Morals. 6. Evil ; can it be accounted for without being also justified ? 7. Relative Moral Influence of the Ascetic or Stoic, the Epicurean or Utilitarian, and the Fourieristic or Harmonial Theory of the Passions. 8. Moral Influences of the Doctrines of Predestination and Free-will. 9. Do the Beneficial Effects of Sects partly or wholly founded on Delusions compensate for their Evils ? 10. Which of these two Theories is most promotive of Morals : (1) The Universe is Governed by Inflexible Law ; (2) The Universe is governed by a Self-Originating Will which Prayer can change or influence ? 11. Rationale of Suicide. 12. Spencer's "Data of Ethics." 13. Mallock's "Is Life Worth Living ?" 14. Belief in Immortality as an Inducement to Virtue. 15. Spencer's Doctrine of the Unknowable as the Basis of the Religion of the Future.

CURRENT HISTORY.—1. Rationale of Russian Nihilism. 2. The Present and the Future of the American Indian. 3. The Relation of Imperialism to Democracy. 4. The Experiment of Free Trade in England. 5. The Administration of Andrew Jackson. 6. The Russo-Turkish War as ended by the Peace of Berlin. 7. The Career of Garibaldi. 8. Causes of the Condition of Ireland. 9. Bismarck. 10. The Future of Egypt. 11. British Dominion in India. 12. Rise and Probable Future of Mormonism. 13. Panama Canal. 14. Political Socialism in America. 15. The Present French Republic. 16-20. The Present Condition and Prospects of Russia ; of Italy ; of the Papacy ; of Austro-Hungary ; of Mexico. 21. Progress of Liberalism in England.

SOCIAL SCIENCE.—1. Does Local Self-Government result in the Best Government ? 2. Should Government seek to promote Industry, or merely to preserve the Peace ? 3. Ought Government to issue Paper Currency ? 4. Is Compulsory Education feasible ? 5. The Means of preventing Breaches of Trust on the Part of Individuals and of Officers of Corporations. 6. The Benevolent *vs.* the Vindictive Method with Crime. 7. What shall be done with the Morally Insane. 8. Transportation compared with Penitentiary. 9. Prevention of Pauperism. 10. Would Woman Suffrage aid or hinder Good Gov-

ernment? 11. Is Marriage the Expression of an Eternal and Unchangeable Law? 12. Has Christianity ameliorated the Social Condition of Woman? 13. The Relative Health, Beauty, Strength, and Vitality of the Ancients and the Moderns. 14. Should a Representative obey the Will of his Constituents? 15. Rules of Evidence observed in Courts. 16. Rationale of Political Revolutions. 17. The Value of the Novel. 18. The Elements of Criticism. 19. Tendency to Formation of Class Distinctions in American Society. 20. Sewage in Great Cities. 21. Value and Legitimacy of the Party Principle in Politics.

The Executive Committee takes pleasure in announcing the following programme :

October 16th—Professor Rodney Welch, Transportation as an Agency in Civilization; 23d—Rev. Dr. H. W. Thomas, The Past and the Future of the Philosophical Society; 30th—Austin Bierbower, Esq., Thomas Aquinas, or Scholastic Philosophy in Modern Theology. November 6th—Rev. Dr. D. S. Gregory, British Dominion in India; 13th—Rev. Dr. R. A. Holland, Atomism; 20th—Dr. H. A. Johnson, The Germ Theory of Disease; 27th—Rev. L. P. Mercer, Comparative Mythology and the Origin of Religion. December 4th—Miss Frances E. Willard, The Temperance Question philosophically and critically considered; 11th—Dr. J. S. Jewell, On the Influence of our Present Civilization in the Production of Nervous and Mental Diseases; 18th—James K. Applebee, Esq., The Philosophy of David Hume; 27th—W. P. Black, Esq., Socialism as a Factor in American Society and Politics. January 3d—Fred. P. Powers, Esq., Predestination in Science and Religion; 8th—Dr. D. R. Brower, Specialization of Function in the Brain; 15th—Chas. H. Ham, Esq., Tendency to Formation of Class Distinctions in American Society; 22d—Professor Samuel Willard, Historical Criticism; 29th—Mrs. Maria A. Shorey (subject not announced). February 5th—E. O. Brown, Esq., The Relation of the Catholic Church to Scientific Investigation; 12th—Colonel A. N. Waterman, Legal Reform; 19th—Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson (subject not announced); 26th—Professor Van Buren Denslow (subject not announced). March 5th—Hon. L. L. Bond, Does Local Self-Government result in the Best Government? 12th—Rev. Dr. Galusha Anderson, Huxley; 19th—Professor W. S. Haines, The Present State of the Alcohol Question; 26th—Mrs. Celia P. Wooley (subject not announced). April 2d—Paul Shorey, Esq., Schopenhauer and his Critics.

Invitations have also been extended to the following persons, from some of whom lectures may be expected during the season: Hon. Henry Booth, General I. N. Stiles, Professor W. T. Harris (Concord, Massachusetts), Mrs. Amalie J. Hathaway, John W. Ela, Esq., Dr. George M. Beard (New York City), Dr. A. Reeves Jackson, Professor A. A. Lambert, Dr. Julia H. Smith, Hon. Henry Strong, Hon. John N. Jewett, George P. Hanson, Esq., Dr. H. W. Boyd.

Tickets are sold at the door on lecture evenings, and may be had of the Treasurer, Mr. Emmett C. Fisher, office of Continental Fire Insurance Company, No. 30 Lakeside Building. Price for the course, \$2; single lectures, 25 cents. Every purchaser of a course ticket is considered a member of the Society, with all the rights and privileges of membership. This course of lectures is thus offered at a merely nominal price, the Society wishing to make its advantages easily obtainable.

The sessions of the Philosophical Society are held every Saturday evening, at eight o'clock, in the club-room on the parlor floor of the Palmer House.

JOSIAH H. BISSELL,
Secretary.

MRS. HELEN S. SHEDD,
SAMUEL WILLARD,
EDMUND BURKE,
MRS. CELIA P. WOOLEY,
GEORGE D. BROOMELL,

} Executive
Committee.